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QUINE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP, P.C.

By: Deborah Berwick
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Appl. No. : 10/071,877 Confirmation No. 9765
Applicant : Robert C. Downs, et al.
Filed : February 8, 2002
TC/A.U. : 1743
Examiner : Brian J. Sines

Docket No. : 36-001810US
Customer No. : 22798
Client Ref No.: P1006US10

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of December 29, 2004, please reconsider the application in light of the amendments and remarks below.

Applicant appreciates the time and effort expended by the Examiner in a phone interview of March 14, 2005, in the above cited matter. The discussion focused on the novelty of claim 1. The Examiner offered that the rejection was based on the broadest reading of clause b) in light of the third sentence of paragraph 18 in the application. However, Applicant noted that the meaning of the term is clear to one skilled in the art when read in light of the paragraph, as well as the Sample Processing Components section, the Figures, and the specification as a whole.

A Listing the Claims is provided as a courtesy beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.